NOTE XXI.

ON A NEW FLYING SQUIRREL FROM DELI, SUMATRA.

BY

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(Plate 7, figs. 3—10).

Sciuropterus setosus, collected by Horner in the neighborhood of Padang (Sumatra) and described by Temminck in the »Fauna japonica", seems to be such an extremely rare animal, that the type-specimen — an adult female — is the only individual hitherto observed by collectors and naturalists. Mr. Anderson is one of the few authors which have paid some interest to our little animal, but he has been not very successful in his remarks and observations. For, having studied in our Museum all our specimens before publishing his bulky work [1]), he came to the remarkable conclusion that Temminck's *setosus* is a not fully grown specimen of *Sciuropterus* (*Pteromys* apud Anderson) *pearsonii* Gray.

Trouessart (Catalogue des Rongeurs, 1881) blindly accepted Anderson's view, but incorrectly gave the locality, as we find in Trouessart's Catalogue »Birmanie supér., Sikkim, Darjiling", instead of »Sumatra". Transiently I observe that Temminck's »Fauna japonica" has been published in 1850, *not* in 1847, as Anderson and Trouessart quoted.

It seems that Oldfield Thomas, as in so many other points, differs with Anderson concerning the specific identity

1) Anatomical and Zoological Researches: comprising an account of the Zoological Results of the two Expeditions to Western Yunnan in 1868 and 1875, by John Anderson, 1878.

between *setosus* and *pearsonii*; at least, in the P. Z. S. L., 1886, p. 60, he says concerning the localities where *Sciuropterus pearsonii* has been found: »this rare species would »be naturally expected to occur in Manipur. It has pre»viously been recorded from Sikkim, Assam and Yunnan". As we see, no word about Sumatra, a locality that Thomas otherwise certainly not would have omitted to record.

Let us now return to Anderson and look how he defended his view; on p. 294 of his book we read: »I have »examined the type of *Pteromys setosus*, which agrees with »*P. pearsonii* in the absence of the cheek-bristles and in »its general characters, but the specimen is not fully grown, »measuring only, along the back to the root of the tail, »4.75, and the tail 3.75. It is less rufescent than the »adult, and the underparts are whiter, as are also the »cheeks". If we now consider that, according to Anderson, in *pearsonii* the tail is half the length of the body, which attains to about 8 inches (also body ± 8 and tail ± 4 inches, meanwhile the same measurements in *setosus* are 4.75 and 3.75), that moreover the color of the upperparts in *pearsonii* is a rich glossy reddish-brown, finely grizzled with black (apud Anderson, p. 293), meanwhile in *setosus* »toutes les parties supérieures ont une teinte brune noirâtre nuancée de cendré roussâtre, vu que la pointe de tous les poils porte cette dernière teinte" (apud Temminck, p. 49), and finally that the skull of *setosus* clearly presents the worn state of the molars, I think that it need not to demonstrate on other grounds the specific difference between the two species in consideration.

It is perhaps not superfluous to add, that in *pearsonii* »the tail is very bushy but slightly distichous and is half »the length of the body" (Anderson), meanwhile in *setosus* »la queue, qui est longue et à poil distique, atteint par »le bout à l'origine des oreilles" (Temminck).

By the kindness of Oldfield Thomas, who presented to our Museum a specimen of *Sciuropterus pearsonii* with its skull, I am at present in the opportunity to compare the

skulls of the two species under consideration. Both they are adult specimens, all the molars are present.

The measurements of the skulls in millimetres run as follows:

	Sc. pearsonii.	*Sc. setosus.*
length of skull	41	30
greatest breadth	27	17
nasals	13.5	7
palate	20	12
diastema	9	6.5
length of upper molar series	10	5.5

In comparing the drawings of the skulls (plate 7, figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6) we observe: that in *Sc. pearsonii* the nasal bones are very elongate and surpass a good deal the incisors, meanwhile in *Sc. setosus* the named bones are strikingly short, shorter than in any other *Sciuropterus*-species known to me; that the molars in *Sc. pearsonii* are very stout and represent a type quite different from the feeble and simple molars of *Sc. setosus*; that the form of the tympanic bullae is extraordinarily different in the two skulls, in one word that in the bony parts the two species present such enormous distinctions that it indeed is impossible to confound them.

I was induced to submit our typical *Sciuropterus setosus*-specimen to a closer examination as I received some weeks ago a small flying-squirrel from Deli, North East Sumatra, through the liberality of Dr. B. Hagen [1]), who presented it to our Museum.

From the following it will appear that the latter is a representant of a new species quite distinct from *Sc. setosus* and which I propose to name

Sciuropterus platyurus.

It has the small size of *Sciuropterus sagitta*, *Sc. aurantiacus* and *Sc. setosus* and is therefore at once distinguished

1) I remember that I described, in the Notes from the Leyden Museum, 1889, p. 26, under the name *Sc. hageni*, a very large new *Sciuropterus*-species, too collected by Dr. Hagen in Deli.

from *Sc. pearsonii*, *Sc. hageni* and other large *Sciuropterus*-species.

Description of the type, an adult female:

Hairs of back and upperparts of wing-membranes very short, soft; they are of a black colour and tipped with chestnut, lighter on the wing-membranes; upperparts of extremities with throughout black hairs or the black hairs have light chestnut tips or, like on the forelegs, the hairs are tipped with white. The hairs of chin, chest and underside of forelegs are pure white, those of the belly and underside of hindlegs black with white tips. The tail has uniformly colored light brown hairs.

The tail is distichous on its upper- as well as on its underside and very flat; the form of the tail is quite different from what we know of other *Sciuropteri*; its is broad in its basal half and diminishes in broadness towards its end, where it attains hardly half the dimension of the basal part. The tail of *Sciuropterus sagitta* remembers the tail of our species in a distant way.

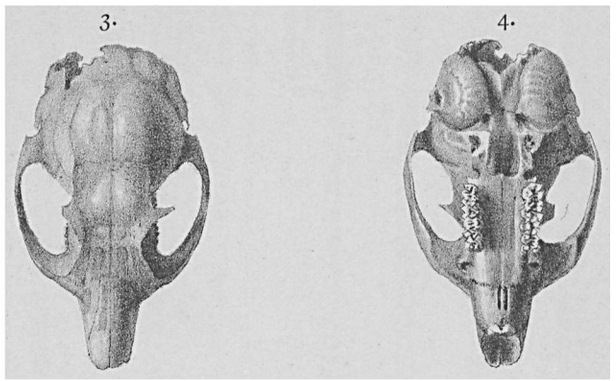
Dimensions in millimetres:

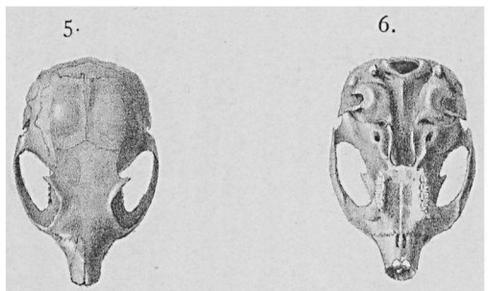
head and body	130
tail with tuft	100
ear	13 × 8
hind foot with claws	25
length of skull	32
greatest breadth of skull	20
nasals	9
diastema	6.5
molar series (upper jaw)	6

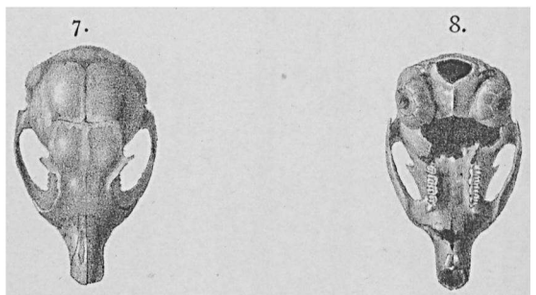
The differences in the skull between our species and the other small *Sciuropteri* will be evident by a comparative study of the figures of their skulls on plate 7.

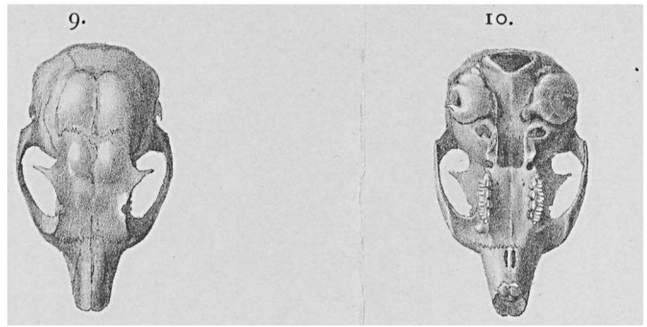
The incisors are light yellow colored.

Whiskers not numerous, black, less long than in other species as they measure only 37 mm. No bristles on the cheeks or on other parts of the head.









R. Raar ad nat. del. et lith.

P. W. M. Trap impr.

3, 4. Sciuropterus pearsonii *Gray*.

5, 6. Sciuropterus setosus *Temminck*.
7, 8. Sciuropterus platyurus *Jentink*.
9, 10. Sciuropterus sagitta *Linné*.